CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1992 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the "Joint Declaration of the President of the Argentine Republic, Carlos Menem, and the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Fernando Collor, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco".

We should be very grateful if you, Sir, in accordance with the established practice, would arrange for this text to be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to all delegations, both of member States and of States with observer status.

(Signed) Roberto García Moritán
Ambassador
Representative of the
Argentine Republic for
Disarmament

(Signed) Celso L.N. Amorim
Ambassador
Representative of Brazil
to the International Organizations
at Geneva

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JOINT DECLARATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, CARLOS MENEM, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL, FERNANDO COLLOR, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

"1. Since assuming the presidencies of our countries, we have given a new and determined impulse towards a common nuclear policy, including the aspect of non-proliferation. We were always inspired by the idea of endowing our nuclear programmes with internal and external transparency and of demonstrating to the international community the exclusively peaceful objectives which guide them, in keeping with the spirit of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

2. Those programmes reflect the determination and political will of our Governments to strengthen regional and international peace and security, by the adoption, inter alia, of clear verification mechanisms.

3. In that context, in the Declaration of Foz do Iguaçú on Common Nuclear Policy, of 28 November 1990, we agreed on three concrete steps:

The creation of a Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials;

The conclusion of a joint safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency; and

The taking of appropriate action to permit the full entry into force for the two countries of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, including action to update and improve its wording.

4. The international community is witness to the rapidity and efficacy with which the results of this undertaking, known to all, were achieved:

The Agreement between Argentina and Brazil for the Exclusively Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, signed on 18 July 1991 in the City of Guadalajara and since adopted by the Congresses of the two countries and ratified by both Governments, representing implementation of the first step; and

The signature, on 13 December 1991, of the Agreement for the Application of Safeguards between Argentina, Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

5. Today we are taking effective measures for the implementation of the third and last commitment of the Declaration of Foz do Iguaçú. At the earliest possible opportunity we shall submit for the consideration of OPANAL some amendments to the text of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, of a primarily technical nature not affecting its principles and purposes in any way.

6. We are asking all the countries of our region for the necessary support for this initiative, whose objective is to facilitate the application of the Treaty.

7. We congratulate the Government of France on its decision to ratify Protocol I to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which will contribute to the definitive establishment, hopefully in the near future, of its juridical validity for the entire region for which it is intended.

8. All of these recent developments, indicative of a deep and shared desire to strengthen Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone free of nuclear weapons, lead us to the common conviction that finalization of the process, now announced, of adoption of amendments to the text of the Treaty, will decisively open the way for its entry into force in our countries.

9. In this way, Argentina and Brazil are contributing clearly and constructively to the establishment of a new international scenario, characterized by cooperation and confidence-building between nations, as central elements for the maintenance of international peace and security."

BUENOS AIRES - BRASILIA, 14 FEBRUARY 1992